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To: [Ashby, Jonathan](#)
Subject: Boundary Commission Consultation : Brentwood
Date: 11 December 2022 17:56:44
Attachments: [Boundary Commission Consultation Brentwood.eml.msg](#)

Dear Mr. Ashby,

I have to say from the outset that the Liberal Democrat Group are very disappointed with the reaction of the Boundary Commission over the suggestions made by us.

During the briefing from yourselves, we were encouraged to embrace the idea of new names for wards and that this was the ideal opportunity to come forward with suggestions, yet in the response from the Commission these suggestions have been dismissed out of hand and it seems we are to continue with the same compass bearing descriptions. Likewise, we were informed that a good starting point would be firstly, numbers of residents per councillor and secondly, hard boundaries were being urged by the Commission, yet all of the hard boundaries we have suggested have been ignored, especially railway lines and the A12 six-lane highway.

One of our councillors mentioned at your briefing that we were bound to parish boundaries that were set up two or three hundred years ago and have no reflection of the modern day development of Brentwood Borough, yet it is obvious the Commission will not even consider the possibility of parish boundaries going over into different wards, which leaves us with a number of areas of major concern in your proposals.

Our proposal for splitting Ingatestone, Fryerning and Mountnessing either side of the A12 and forming a new ward consisting of the urban area of Ingatestone, the rural area of Mountnessing and the new development planned for Shenfield, but the position has been made clear that hard boundaries are being ignored, the expansion of ratio of residents - councillors is being ignored, future development is being ignored, but protecting the obviously and very important parish boundaries.

The Commission's proposal of a Town Centre ward, again ignoring hard boundaries such as the Liverpool Street – Shenfield main train line, in expanding a newly constructed ward over that boundary into Warley, completely splitting up a community seemingly makes a nonsense of hard boundary requirements. We believe the proposal we put forward that retains a boundary of the railway line works with numbers of residents per councillor and keeps a community intact, i.e., the Hartswood community part of Warley together and moving the resident numbers in Brentwood North across, gives a more Town Centre feel to a town centre ward, not Brentwood South, so we would urge you to reconsider our proposal for that ward.

Shenfield – It would seem the Commission has not taken into account the

development that has approval under the Local Development Plan for the area running along the Chelmsford Road beyond Alexander Lane – some 700 odd houses expected – which would increase the numbers per councillor way above the 10% margin when the 170 odd residents are added in the newly constructed Fairview Homes buildings by the Brentwood Community Hospital in Crescent Drive, the 100 odd new residents planned for the partially constructed flats by the traffic lights in the Chelmsford Road and further development seeking planning approval in Hall Lane, Shenfield. The Liberal Democrat Group cannot accept the Commissions reasoning on this and urge you to reconsider, which would support our argument for Points No. 1 and No. 2.

Our argument for moving the residential areas in the London Road into the South Weald ward is based on all of the factors you wished us to deliver - i), construct hard boundaries (London Road from High Street to M25) ii) reduce residential numbers from Brentwood West, iii) retaining communities – a strong community called The Homesteads from Honeypot Lane through to River Road exists, spreading over into the South Weald ward as a community where, in the London Road there is a facility called South Weald Parish Hall, which is situated in Brentwood West but shared by both wards as a polling station and community hub. We believe we tick the boxes, as required.

Pilgrims Hatch at the moment has a ratio spot on with residents / councillors. Brentwood Borough Council have received pre-application enquiries by the developers owning two large areas within the ward. The one by the A12 has a Local Plan allocation for 250 dwellings, pushing up the numbers of residents. Currently under construction along the A128 towards Ashwells Road, we have a further 100+ new resident numbers. Therefore, the tweaking of the ward to reduce the area as we proposed we continue to believe is a constructive way forward for the future. Before the last Boundary Review, areas of the Coxtie Green Road were within the ward of Pilgrims Hatch. They were, during that review, removed to South Weald ward. The residents of Applegate and Bellhouse Lane and those few dwellings in Coxtie Green Road consider themselves as Pilgrims Hatch residents, in fact Applegate residents have garden access onto the Ongar Road A128 located within Pilgrims Hatch ward. They are within walking distance of their polling station, currently at Larchwood School, but some mile and a half, or even further to the polling station at Bentley Church in South Weald. So, we would wish to object to the Boundary Commission's seemingly out of hand rejection of the Pilgrims Hatch amended ward boundaries on those grounds.

We hope you have found these comments constructive, and will reconsider your proposals before finalising the new ward arrangements.

Kind regards,

Cllr Barry Aspinell.

Cllr Barry Aspinell

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